



## **New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual**

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective Date:  3-25-2015
Volume:	VII	Education and Educational Stability	
Chapter:	A	Education and Educational Stability	
Subchapter:	1	Education and Educational Stability	
Issuance:	300	<b>CP&amp;P and Other Scholarship Programs</b>	

### **New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program (NJFC Scholars Program) 4-18-2005**

The NJFC Scholars program provides -- financial assistance to eligible foster, adoptive (adopted after age 12), kinship legal guardianship, relative care, and homeless youth seeking a post-secondary education. The program assists youth with the following educational needs:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Special equipment and computer
- Child care costs

The NJFC Scholars program was made possible -- by the passage of N.J.S.A. 30: 4C-101 et seq., (Tuition Waiver Bill) and is in memory of Claudette Haba, a former CP&P worker.

#### **Eligibility**

**4-18-2005**

Students attending classes full-time -- at a NJ public college, university, or technical school are eligible to receive the full cost of their tuition, based on good academic standing.

A maximum \$5,000 per year -- is awarded to students who attend part-time, in-state, or out-of-state. The same applies to students attending private schools, full-time or part-time.

The applicant needs to -- meet the following requirements:

- Be between 16 and 22 years of age
- Be in the care and custody of CP&P for a period of nine months or more following the youth's 16th birthday
- Reside in or have resided in a CP&P paid placement for at least two years; or adopted through CP&P after 12 years of age
- Reside in or have resided in an independent living arrangement or transitional living program for youth in out-of-home placement approved for payment by CP&P, the federal government pursuant to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or the NJ Homeless Youth Act
- Possess a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency
- Granted admission to an accredited degree or certificate granting post-secondary institution

## **Documentation and Application Process**

**3-25-2015**

The applicant submits all of the following –

- Proof of completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Completed and signed NJFC Scholars Program application
- Proof of acceptance (or current enrollment statement) from the post-secondary institution the applicant is planning to attend (or is currently attending)
- Most recent school transcript
- Letter of recommendation from an adult who knows the applicant well
- A one page essay (see application for essay topics)

Every applicant must complete a FAFSA, -- as well as a NJFC Scholars Program application, in order to apply for the NJFC Scholars Program. There are specific deadlines for completing the FAFSA (federal and state financial aid), and institutional financial aid which must be met.

Obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) -- at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), a local library, any college, university, county vocational school, or by calling 1-800-433-3243.

Obtain a NJFC Scholars Program application -- by calling Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), a private, non-profit organization that administers the NJFC Scholars Program, at 1-800-222-0047 or visit <http://www.fafsonline.org/njfc-scholars-program.html>. Applications are accepted year round.

Submit completed applications and all required documentation to:

Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
P.O. Box 518, 4301 Route 1 South  
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852  
Attn. Scholarship Department

Visit <http://www.fafsonline.org/njfc-scholars-program.html>-- for additional information.

## **Other Scholarship Programs**

**3-25-2015**

Privately funded academic scholarships, such as the Mark Wickley Scholarship, and opportunity grants -- are offered to foster and adoptive children by Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), a private, non-profit organization.

FAFS Scholarship programs -- are related to academic achievement and are used for:

- Four-year colleges and universities
- Junior or community colleges
- Trade or vocational schools
- Supplies related to these institutions

FAFS Opportunity grants -- are allotted to assist foster and adopted children in the next phase of their lives, usually including, but not limited to, academic pursuit and independent living.

Contact FAFS -- at <http://www.fafsonline.org/private-scholarships-grants-foster-care-youth-nj.html> or 1-800-222-0047 to obtain additional information about privately funded academic scholarships and opportunity grants available to foster and adoptive children.

Worker

Contact your office Administrative Assistant (AA) or Resource Development Specialist (RDS) -- to see if your region offers any private scholarships. Regions may vary.

Student aid/scholarships may also be available from -- foundations, community organizations and organizations related to the youth's field of interest. Contact these organizations directly for detailed information. The following is a checklist of free sources of student financial aid information:

- Financial aid office at the youth's college or career school
- High school counselor
- U.S. Department of Education
- Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4-FED-AID
- Other federal agencies (including the military, if appropriate)
- NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority at [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org)
- Local or college library
- Internet
- Foundations, religious organizations, community organizations, local businesses, and civic groups